

Application No. 10/080,625
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

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THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to correct some minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 23 and 24 have been added.

New independent claim 23 has been prepared based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 1, 3 and 6.

New independent claim 24 has been prepared based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 14, 15, 18 and 22.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 23 and 24 be approved and entered.

INVENTORSHIP

Kazumasa SUZUKI is the sole inventor of the present claimed invention recited in new claims 23 and 24. Accordingly, a request to delete the other named inventors is submitted herewith.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 4,078,847 ("Presnick"), claims 14-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,901,033 ("Crawford et al"), and claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Presnick and Crawford et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new independent claims 23 and 24.

RE: New Independent Claim 23

According to the present invention recited in new independent claim 23, a frame is provided which comprises a plurality of frame segments arranged such that three mutually orthogonal frame segments are joined at a corner portion of the frame. Each of the three frame segments is cut along two planes at an end thereof, with each of the two planes being at an angle of $\pm 45^\circ$ relative to a plane defined by the other two frames. A corner member which is separate from the three frame segments is provided at the corner portion to join the three frame segments. The corner member comprises a trigonal pyramid shape which is exposed to outside of the frame and which has faces extending from outer side surfaces of the three frame segments. And

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obliquely extending draining portions are provided on both sides of each of the outer side surfaces of the three frame segments such that corresponding ones of the draining portions are joined together at the corner portion.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 23, the corner member is separate from the three frame segment joined at the corner and is exposed to the outside, such that the faces of the corner member extend from (but are not formed by) the exterior side faces of the three frame segments. With this structure, precise cuts to the ends of the frame segments are not required, since after the $\pm 45^\circ$ cuts are made, the frame segments are further cut orthogonally with respect to the longitudinal direction thereof, and the corner member is fitted thereto.

The Examiner asserts that element 15 of Presnick corresponds to the corner member of the present invention. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that element 15 of Presnick is merely a mitered corner joint formed by joining the ends of three adjacent frame rails 11. (See column 3, lines 31-34 of Presnick and Fig. 2 in which primary walls 13 of frame rails 11 are joined at joint 15.) And thus, it is respectfully submitted that the corner joint 15 of Presnick is clearly not separate from the frame rails 11, but is in fact formed by the frame rails 11. In

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addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the separate connector clip 19 of Presnick, which is used to join frame members 11, is provided within the frame and is not exposed to the outside.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Presnick does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 23 whereby the corner member is separate from the three frame segments and is provided at the corner portion to join the three frame segments, and whereby the corner member comprises a trigonal pyramid shape which is exposed to outside of the frame and which has faces extending from outer side surfaces of the three frame segments.

And it is therefore respectfully submitted that new independent claim 23 clearly patentably distinguishes over Presnick, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

RE: New Independent Claim 24

According to the present invention recited in new independent claim 24, a frame is provided which includes a plurality of frame segments arranged such that three mutually orthogonal frame segments are joined at a corner portion of the frame by fasteners and by welding. At least respective inner

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portions of the joined frame segments are joined at the corner portion by welding, and at least respective outer portions of the joined frame segments are joined at the corner portion by the fasteners. Each frame segment has a cross-sectional shape including an interior hollow portion and an exterior recessed portion. The recessed portion of each frame segment comprises a draining portion thereof, and the recessed portion of said each frame segment is secured at the corner portion by welding at an end of the recessed portion and by rivets at side walls of the recessed portion.

With this structure, the joint can be secured by, for example, rivets before welding, and the number of welds are reduced to reduce the production cost of the frame.

The Examiner contends that Fig. 11 of Crawford et al shows the recessed portion of the present invention. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that neither the supports 30a-30d nor the support rails 34a-34d shown in Fig. 11 of Crawford et al have an exterior recessed portion that comprises a draining portion, in the manner of the claimed present invention. And it is respectfully submitted that Crawford et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest that the end of the recessed portion is secured at the corner portion by welding at an end of the recessed portion and by rivets at side walls of the recessed

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portion, as according to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 24.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 24 clearly patentably distinguishes over Crawford et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Request to Delete Inventors - 37 CFR 1.48(b)

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Form PTO-2038 authorizing a charge in the amount of \$130.00
is enclosed in payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i).
In addition, authorization is given to charge any additional
necessary fees to Account No. 06-1378.

Respectfully submitted,



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